

**817—8.1(15H) Definitions.**

*“Certification”* means the process which identifies youth mentoring programs as meeting the criteria for effective practice to be eligible for financial and technical assistance.

*“Commission”* means the Iowa commission on volunteer service.

*“Conditional certification”* means a temporary certification identifying a youth mentoring program before the program is fully operational in order for the program to apply for financial and technical assistance.

*“Mentoring certification application”* means the application developed by the Iowa commission on volunteer service, which can be adopted by all agencies and departments of state government. The application contains information which shall be used to determine an applicant’s designation as a certified mentoring program for participation in the Iowa mentoring partnership.

*“Mentoring program”* means a program that provides older mentors to youth. A mentoring program must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be located in this state;
2. Be operated as a public or private not-for-profit entity, part of a school or area education agency, or part of a faith-based community;
3. Serve youth aged 5 to 23;
4. Appropriately screen mentors, requiring a minimum of two hours of orientation and training prior to serving in a mentoring capacity;
5. Require mentors and youth to meet for a minimum of one hour per week over the course of a school or calendar year;
6. Require mentors and youth in an E-mentoring program to communicate electronically, at least once per week, over the course of a school or calendar year.